

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Minor changes are made to this specification. Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 3-5 have been amended. New claims 6-16 have been added. Examination and consideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6809 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

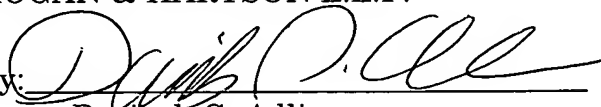
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: January 4, 2005

By:



Dariush G. Adli

Registration No. 51,386

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